

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1087  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Houston Monroe  
Goddard of Maryville, Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of the Honorable Houston Monroe Goddard, Presiding Judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals and former Tennessee State Senator; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born January 1, 1927, in Knoxville, Tennessee to the late Homer A. and Alice Belle Pickens Goddard, Houston Goddard attended school in Maryville and graduated from Maryville High School in 1944; he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 and an LL.B. degree in 1950 from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Delta Phi fraternities; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard was admitted to the Bar and established his legal practice in Maryville in 1950, which he maintained until he was elected to the bench; in 1967 he was elected as a Republican to the Tennessee General Assembly from the Eighth Senatorial District serving in the 85th-87th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, as a State Senator, Houston Goddard served as Senate Minority Leader during the 87th General Assembly and was regarded with great respect and affection by the members of the Senate and House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, first appointed for the Court of Appeals in 1974 by Governor Winfield Dunn, who cited his "personal and professional integrity," Judge Goddard was subsequently elected to a full term that year and re-elected in 1982, 1990, and 1998; elected as Presiding Judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals in 1995, he served with great acumen and dedication in that

position, earning the respect of both his judicial peers and those appearing before the court alike for the exemplary quality of his decisions, his wisdom, and his unquestioned integrity; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard's benchmate on the Court of Appeals, Judge Hershel Franks of Chattanooga, said of him, that "...[He was] a very able judge who always exhibited compassion for people and made very good decisions...[he] made everyone around him feel good. He had a sense of humor that was kind, if you know what I mean. He was just a prince of a man."; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Lamar Alexander said of Judge Goddard, "... he was an absolute delight. He was a wise judge and a pure Republican. He treasured East Tennessee. He had high standards and a clever sense of humor... We'll miss him greatly."; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard was an active and devout member of the Maryville First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; he was an active participant in civic and community life in Maryville, serving on many local boards and commissions, including the Board of Directors at Asbury Acres and the Friends of the Blount County Library; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Barbara, and was the proud father of sons Andrew, Thomas, and Joseph, daughter Julia, and stepson, Jason Semple; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Judge Goddard was preceded in death by his first wife and the mother of his children, Jamie Sarah Pannell Goddard; along with his wife and children, he is survived by a brother, A. B. Goddard; and

WHEREAS, Judge Goddard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Houston Monroe Goddard, reflecting fondly upon

his impeccable character, his great humanity, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Goddard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.